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**THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2013**

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# INPORTNEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 3 VOLUME 17

For news updated daily see [www.inportnews.ca](http://www.inportnews.ca)

■ **NEW ARRIVAL:** Charlee Amber Dawn Benner couldn't wait to be born

## Firefighter dad delivers

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPortNEWS Staff

PORT COLBORNE — According to the stove, it was 6:23 a.m.

Despite the shock of the moment, Trimmer Benner had the wherewithal to stop and look at the clock.

A parent never wants to forget the moment their child takes that first breath.

Especially when it takes place in the family kitchen.

Friday began as a regular day for the Port Colborne family, including Trimmer girlfriend Jessica Davis and the couple's children, Hayden Davis, 3, and TJ Benner, 12.

But that quickly changed.

Jessica was nine days past her due date.

Waking up in the early hours, she decided to have a bath to relax.

Little did she know, her day would

soon become anything but relaxing. Jessica began to feel contractions and immediately awoke Trimmer from his slumber.

She told him they had to leave for the hospital immediately.

From the time she travelled from the bedroom to the kitchen, Jessica felt her contractions move from five minutes to two minutes apart.

Having trained as a volunteer firefighter for the past 12 years, Trimmer knew time to get to the hospital was running short.

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MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo  
Charlee Amber Dawn Benner entered the world in an unusual way. The newborn was delivered Friday in her family's kitchen by father Trimmer Benner when mother Jessica Davis went into labour.



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# upfront

## ■ DELIVERY

# ‘Nothing tops this’

## FROM PAGE 1

The couple got their midwife Mylene Shields on the phone and explained the situation in hopes she could meet the pair at the nearest hospital.

But Mylene knew that plan simply wasn't going to work. Instead, she asked Trimmer if he was ready.

His mind whirled as he tried to comprehend what she was implying, and when it finally clicked his heart began to race.

Trimmer was told over the phone to leave Jessica onto the family's kitchen floor and to fetch a pillow and plenty of towels.

"I was in denial a bit," he says with a laugh.

And then Mylene asked if he could see the head.

His years of training then kicked in as Trimmer realized the baby was coming.

Right here, right now. And it was his job to make sure she arrived safely.

"This is happening," he remembers saying, short of a few breaths.

With Mylene guiding him through a cellphone tucked into his shoulder, Trimmer got ready to welcome his daughter into the world.

That first cry came with a sigh of relief from both parents.

It was literally less than five minutes from the time the chaos began to the time Charlee Amber Dawn Benner made her grand entrance.

"It couldn't have gone any better, under the circumstances," Jessica says with a smile.

She had planned to give birth in a hospital with Mylene and her team from Renaissance Midwifery by her side.

Though he's dealt with many medical calls, car crashes and fires, Trimmer in his years with Port Colborne fire department has never experienced a birth.

He quips that the department may have to look at training



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Trimmer Benner and Jessica Davis hold their latest addition, Charlee Amber Dawn Benner, along with daughter Hayden Davis and son TJ Benner.

their men for such an occasion.

Jessica believes Trimmer's experience helped him to keep calm and respond under pressure.

"It happened so fast, I didn't have time to get nervous or panic," says the proud father.

"My mind was racing with everything that was going on."

He credits the midwife for remaining so calm on the phone, which in turn helped him to keep his composure.

Mylene arrived to the couple's home shortly after the baby's arrival.

"She said, 'You started this, now you've got to finish it,'" Trimmer says, adding Mylene then walked him through the process of clamping and cutting the umbilical cord.

Mylene was able to examine Charlee at the couple's home, and neither her nor mum needed to go to hospital.

Trimmer's father, Wayne Benner Sr., a retired firefighter, arrived shortly after Charlee's birth, unaware his granddaughter had already made an appearance.

"I've never seen him look more shocked. He said, 'I can't believe you did this,'" Trimmer says.

"I can't believe I did this," he echoes.

"I just can't put it into words. I can't believe we did this."

"Everything I've done and been through, nothing tops this," Trimmer says.

"I was riding the biggest high I've ever had. The adrenaline rush lasted hours," he says, describing the smile he had plastered on his face for hours afterwards.

"All my kids are special to me, of course, but to deliver one is just something else."

Jessica, now thrilled with the unexpected home birth, says she'll never forget the experience — and will never quite look at her kitchen the same.

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## BIRTH CERTIFICATE

■ **Name:** Charlee Amber Dawn Benner

■ **Time of birth:** 6:23 a.m.

■ **Location:** The kitchen of parents Trimmer Benner and Jessica Davis

■ **Weight:** Seven pounds, five ounces

■ **Length:** 21 inches

## ■ REGION

# Regional council could lose role in filling vacancies

JEFF BULCHOWSKI  
QMI Agency Niagara

THOROLD — Trumping cities' choices might not be an option next time regional councillors need to fill a vacant council seat.

The Region's planning committee endorsed a process on Wednesday, Jan. 8 for filling vacancies that would restrict council's role to confirming the wishes of lower-tier municipalities.

Cities and towns could choose a byelection or an appointment. Currently, regional council has the final say, but the committee's recommendation would require it to go along with whatever the lower municipalities asks.

"It leaves it up to the local municipalities, without a shadow of a doubt, The City's who's making the decision," said Niagara Falls Coun. Selina Volpatti, who put forward the motion.

Planning commissioner Patrick Robson said the motion means the Region would accept the local municipality's recommendation without a say of its own.

He said that also means the Region will automatically be



BOB TYMCZYSZYN QMI Agency Niagara  
Niagara Regional Council in session debating a budget.

on the hook if the municipality wants a byelection. By law, the Region has to foot the bill.

The talk of a policy comes after a messy debate in 2011 over how best to fill the Welland council seat vacated by now-Welland MPP Cindy Foster.

Welland city council asked for a byelection, but regional council balked and rejected both the election and a move to appoint runner-up Damian Goulbourne to the seat. Members had to break their own rules and re-vote to go ahead with the byelection after Welland refused to provide an

appointment. St. Catharines Mayor Brian McCullough hopes that wouldn't happen again.

"This change should help us avoid what we all lived through last time," he said.

He said the rule change is a significant one for the Region.

The new policy would apply to vacant regional council seats, save those in Wainfleet and West Lincoln where only their mayors sit on council.

Robson said in those cases, council would be joined by the winner of a mayoral byelection.

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## ■ COMMUNITY

# Seniors survey topic of forums

In Port News Staff

WELLAND — Niagara Region is hosting a series of community forums to educate people on services available to help seniors age well at home.

Through its Aging Well in Niagara events hosted last year, the region collected input on seniors needs from more than 600 residents

through conversation cafes, comment cards and surveys. This pool of information was created to support the region as it develops plans and refines programs to ensure high quality of life for seniors and assist them in living at home for as long as possible.

To release the findings of the public consultation, six forums are being held this

month. Local forums include at Welland Community Wellness Complex, 145 Lincoln St., on Thursday, Jan. 24, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and the Friends Over 55 Centre, 554 Fields Ave. in Port Colborne, on Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

For a full list of dates and locations, visit [www.niagararegion.ca/seniors](http://www.niagararegion.ca/seniors) or call 1-877-212-3922.

# portraits

■ **REACH OUT CENTRE:** Construction, event management students tackling renovations



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Many Hands Niagara College student committee members Kayia Martins, left, Alysha Gayed; chairperson Cathy Tamchyna; Jen Hale and Kristen Empey held a groundbreaking ceremony at Port Cares Reach Out Centre to kick off an interior renovations project.

## Many Hands from college to aid Port Cares

VICTORIA GRAY  
INPortNEWS Staff

Port Colborne — Many hands, hearts and minds make short work of any project — even one as large as poverty.

More than 50 people Friday attended Niagara College's ground-breaking ceremony for its 16th annual Many Hands Project, this one at Port Cares Reach Out Centre on Nickel St.

Event management and construction students will plan and complete interior renovations at the centre over the next four months as part of their program

requirements.

Event management student and chair of the Many Hands project committee, Cathy Tamchyna said Port Cares was selected for the renovations project because out of five applicants more people would benefit from the non-profit organization's food bank and soup kitchen.

"Just from spending a few days at the centre I realized how important it is in the community," she said. "Being here on food service days is what really got me and I just knew we had to help them."

Port Cares executive director Lynda Reinhart said even though the Reach Out Centre

was recently expanded the older section of the building needs work.

"It's like moving into a new house," she said. "When you get it you realize that not everything works the way you need it."

She said the need for the centre is growing. Last year it gave out 87,500 kg of food and served 20,000 meals. For the Many Hands Project, more than 15 students will spend every Friday at the centre from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. knocking out a dividing wall in the dining room, building a security separation between the dining room and kitchen, creating a per-

manent structure for garbage collection outside, adding light fixtures, installing windows, insulating the floor and more.

Canadian Tire Financial Services' vice-president of customer services and operations, Cathy Tamchyna presented the group with a \$5,000 donation on behalf of the company to help complete the project.

"We are reminded every day how deserving (Port Cares is) of our help," Tamchyna said. "I can't wait to see the final results."

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VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Emma Cole, front, and her siblings Lea and Tyler are the first of many to make their mark on a wall Niagara College construction students will tear down inside Port Cares Reach Out Centre as part of the Many Hands Project. The section of the wall with handprints will be cut out, framed and given to Port Cares when the project is complete in April.

# IMPORT NEWS

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## ■ ourview

# Liberals enabled teachers

**I**t's a sad day in Ontario when a teacher's union goes before a quasi-judicial agency to fight for its "right" to illegally strike and impose last-minute disruptions on the lives of school kids and their families.

We realized the absurdity of the situation when lawyers for the province and the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario argued their opposing positions late into Thursday night in front of the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

Meanwhile, back in the real world, public elementary school boards across Ontario were forced to cancel classes Friday, no matter what the OLRB rules.

That's because you can't run a school system where it's a crap shoot whether the teachers are going to show up for work while ETFO decides if its members are going to do their jobs.

Indeed, it's impossible to contain our laughter when either ETFO or Queen's Park claims this nonsense is "all about the children." Both sides need to wake up to the fact Ontario parents are fed up with them and their silly rhetoric.

All this stupid war of attrition is doing is hurting students and parents, who have no endless time to skip off work while ETFO decides if its members are going to do their jobs.

What is most frustrating is how avoidable all of this was. If Premier Dalton McGuinty hadn't blown the Ontario budget — in part by asking "how high" every time the teacher unions said "jump" over the past nine years — we wouldn't be looking down the barrel of a \$14 billion provincial deficit.

Had he managed the province responsibly, there wouldn't have been any need for Bill 115, which has the teacher unions in an uproar for freezing their pay and cutting benefits.

If the Liberals had lived within their means, things wouldn't have reached this fever pitch.

Teacher unions and the Liberals have acted as each other's enablers for too many years, with taxpayers bearing the burden.

Now the relationship has soured and parents and kids are collateral damage. It's disgusting.

And it's just one more reason why an election can't come soon enough to get rid of the Liberals, no matter who they elect as their next leader.

- Sun Media

■ FAITH: I've been thinking about a new year, and new sights

# Finding vision in a world of darkness

GARY TOMLUCK

**N**ow fresh into the new year we should especially reckon with the fact that Jesus makes everything new.

He gives new life via the new birth. Those who think they can see are blind to the truth while those who are blind are set free to truly see.

There was one blind man who sat in a crowd of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people. He was sitting by the roadside in the dust dressed in rags. (mk 10:46). He was begging for alms—listening for that infidel ring of a coin or two dropping into his cup which was more often empty than full.

If he received enough it would go towards a meager meal, if not he would go hungry once again. He was not stranger to hunger pangs or a grumbling stomach. If only he could see, he could look at the people he loved, he could see the beauty of God's creation, he could work and earn his livelihood. Now he hears the commotion of the crowds and as the shouting and the screaming intensifies he shouts "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (vs47).

David, have mercy on me!" (vs47).

Unfortunately the crowd does not share that same mercy. Some shout he is a nuisance, to shut-up — the master doesn't have time for filth and scum like you. But this man is made in the image of God, he has a name, he has a soul, he has a need, and he has faith that Jesus can heal him and meet that need.

So he takes a deep breath and shouts at the top of his lungs "Son of David, have mercy on me!" (vs 48). And Jesus hears that one, solitary voice above all the others. Jesus knew his pain, his need, his faith and it was compassion on him. Jesus will not pass him by.

And Barthelemy knows if he does not avail himself of this opportunity, it may never come his way again. Then some people in the crowd shout "Rise!" Jesus is calling you (vs 49).

Barthelemy throws aside his garments, runs as fast as he can guided by a few good hearted people and follows on his face in front of Jesus. (vs50) The Lord then asks what seems like a redundant question: "What do you want me to do for you?" (vs51).

Didn't Jesus know that Barthelemy was blind? Yes, but he wanted him to say it. The blind man said "Rabbi, (rabboni) My Lord and my Master, I want to see." Then the Lord said to him "Go, your faith has healed you." (vs 52). And he did immediately receive his sight and go home? No, he followed Jesus. For without faith it is impossible to please God, and Barthelemy's faith pleased Jesus.

Now Barthelemy can see and the first person he sees is Jesus standing in front of him. He stares deeply into the Lord's eyes-two pools of liquid love. He will now see the blue sky, the fluffy clouds and the beauty of a sunset. He will see family and friends but most important He has seen Jesus and has not only received his physical sight but his spiritual sight as well. Man is born blind and Jesus said, "Unless one is born-again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Barthelemy's eyes were flashed into a blind man's eyes it would be useless. The problem is not the amount of light, the blind need sight ... not light. The Light is the Light of the World.

If you have confessed your sins, and truly repented of

them and received Jesus as your own personal Lord and Savior you have new life and light in Him. The Lord has removed your blindness just as surely as the devil once blinded every unbeliever to the truth. But Jesus has given each and every Christian — new spiritual eyes.

With the increasing crime, hate, turmoil, violence, war and economic collapse etc. We do not know what is facing us throughout this New Year.

But we do know that Jesus will take us in hand each step of the way—each day, each hour and each minute. This may be the year in which the Lord calls you home or he may return. Are you ready to meet Him? Then open your heart and invite Jesus in. Do not procrastinate for no one is guaranteed that they will see tomorrow.

Now is the day of salvation. For those who think they see will be blinded, and those who truly want to see will, and by faith they will be healed. They will see. And they will follow Jesus who is the light and who makes every thing new.

Gary Tomluck is interim pastor at Winfield Anglican Church

## ■ COLUMN

# Local real estate market 'steady as she goes'

**T**he local real estate market demonstrated remarkable resilience in 2012—with home sales up 6.6%.

Total residential sales in Pelham reached 208 units compared to the total of 196 reported last year. Interestingly enough, last year's total is the exact same level as recorded in 2009 and 2010. With 403 new listings posted in 2012, our local sales-to-new-listing ratio of 51.9% is solidly in the middle of average territories range of 40% to 60%.

Average prices, however, are on the decline. The 12 month average price as at December 31, 2012 stood at \$320,685 — 1.7% below the 2011 figure of \$326,362.

Market trends in our local area are reflecting the demographic housing shift that is occurring across Canada.



**CATHY BERKHOUT-BOSSÉ**

REAL ESTATE VIEW

disproportionate part of the population, there is a shift towards lower priced condos and townhomes representing a larger share of the housing mix.

In 2012, multi-family residential sales represented a 12% share of the market compared to 10% in 2011 — expect this trend to continue. Lower demand for larger 2 story family homes will continue to place strain on resale values in this segment.

This past month, the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) lowered its 2013 national forecast for home sales activity

via the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) Systems of Canadian real estate Boards and Associations. CREA projects that national sales activity will recede by two per cent in the coming year.

THE RE/MAX

2012 Housing

Market Outlook

released in

December

2012

suggests

that

stability

will be the

characteristic

of Canadian real

estate in the new

year, with sales above

on par with 2012 levels

in the majority of market

areas.

One thing is for sure, the days of rapidly rising average annual prices are expected to become a distant memory.

Cathy Berkhout-Bosse, H.B.A. is a real estate broker at Remax Welland Realty Ltd. You may read past columns at [www.NiagararealtySourceReport.com](http://www.NiagararealtySourceReport.com)



■ MARINE RESCUE UNIT: Winter work necessary for next Lake Erie boating season

# POCOMAR staying shipshape

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPortNEWS Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — Working with scrapers and grinders, members of the Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue (POCOMAR) have started the process of stripping down one of its rescue vessels.

It's part of a maintenance plan to work on the *Donald R. Workman*, a boat custom-built by Dovercraft Marine in 2000 in Port Dover. The winter project is to get it ready for the 2013 boating season.

An inspection was done on the vessel in the spring by Port Ryerse Marine, said Brian Canter, POCOMAR's operations officer.

Canter said the inspector told the unit it would be a good idea to strip down the boat and have it repainted, including inside the engine compartment.

"We've gutted the cuddy down to the metal, too. We're going to reconfigure the cuddy and interior," said Canter.

Once the vessels is stripped down to the metal it will be painted, and a special anti-fouling paint will be applied to hull. The anti-fouling paint prevents organisms from growing on the hull.

New logos will go on the side of the vessel once the rest of the exterior is painted.

"This is the first major overhaul since the vessel was built," said Canter.

POCOMAR executive officer Mélanie Gendreau, Canter and members Andrew Watts and Charlie Adams were working on the vessel Thursday inside the former hydro building on Elm St. — the first time *Donald R. Workman* has been stored indoors for winter.

POCOMAR's other vessel, *Ted Cook*, was also kept in the hydro building, instead of both being kept outdoors at Sugarloaf Harbour Marina as had been done in the past.

Canter and Gendreau said Canadian Niagara Power, owner of the hydro building, let the unit use the facility which has a large heated garage.

"It's a godsend ... we really can't thank Canadian Niagara Power enough," said Canter.

He said the *Donald R. Workman* just fit inside the building when brought in by trailer.

More information on POCOMAR can be found at [www.cngn-pocomar.ca](http://www.cngn-pocomar.ca) and [www.facebook.com/POCOMAR](http://www.facebook.com/POCOMAR).

## POCOMAR HISTORY

- To date, five vessels have served POCOMAR in search and rescue on Lake Erie.
- The first vessel was a 21-foot surplus police vessel, renamed simply POCOMAR. It got the unit in the water in 1989, but proved to be a little small for the often rough waters of the lake.
- In 1993 it was replaced by a 27-foot Baha, also named POCOMAR. It served the unit for the remainder of the 1990s.
- In 2000, the unit launched a custom built Dovercraft and named it *Donald R.*

Workman after the unit's first commander. This vessel was purchased via fundraising and with the support of the city, and remains the unit's primary SAR vessel today. It is a 34-foot steel hull construction craft with twin diesel CAT engines. Each engine produces 300 horsepower, giving her a top speed of 28 knots and lots of towing power.

■ The same year *Donald R. Workman* was launched, the unit, at the request of the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Trenton, launched a second, smaller vessel. This

was a 24-foot used Wellcraft, which was named *Ted Cook* after the unit's second commander.

■ After receiving a Trillium grant in 2004, the Wellcraft vessel was replaced by a custom built Stanley vessel, which was also named *Ted Cook* and continues to serve the unit today. It is a 24-foot aluminum hull boat with a 350 Mercruiser engine which will push her to a top speed of 32 knots. The vessel is fitted with a jet-drive propulsion, which gives it a shallow draught allowing it to operate in just 30 centimetres of

## MORE ON POCOMAR

■ High school students looking to fulfil their volunteer hours can contact the crew at [pocomar@live.ca](mailto:pocomar@live.ca). In the spring the unit will be recruiting full members.

■ POCOMAR will be at Seaway Mall's boat show in March, will be holding a fundraiser golf tournament in June and will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in July.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

POCOMAR operations officer Brian Canter gets into the engine compartment of the *Donald R. Workman*, one of the rescue unit's two vessels, on Thursday morning. The vessel is undergoing an overhaul throughout the winter.

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# 'I really like where we're at right now'



BERND FRANKIE  
inPortNEWS Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne Pirates general manager Bryan Kelly liked the hand he was holding heading into Thursday's junior B trade deadline.

With no last-minute blockbuster that would have dramatically improved the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League, Kelly, who is also the team's head coach, was happy to stand pat.

"I really like where we're at right now," said Kelly, whose team wants to take the "next step" and play for the Sutherland Cup after losing to the eventual Ontario champion St. Catharines Falcons in the Golden Horseshoe Conference final last season.

"I really like our chances. If we're ever going to bring the championship back to Port Colborne, we're going to do it with the players we have right now. This group truly believes it can go all the way."

The Don Cherry's Port Colborne Pirates were content to field calls rather than



If we're ever going to bring the championship back to Port Colborne, we're going to do it with the players we have right now."

Brian Kelly, Pirates GM

work the phones on deadline day because of two trades they had already made. They acquired 20-year-old forward Nick Berr from the Buffalo Blades and defenceman Nathan Judd Warren, also 20, from the St. Thomas Stars of the Western Conference.

"Those were the moves we wanted to make, so the heavy lifting is already done," Kelly said.

Berr, acquired in a Jan. 5 trade for forward Ryan Stayner, gives the Pirates yet another scoring threat and lessens the impact the loss of the injured Jordan Warren is having on the lineup. Despite playing on the most-anemic offense in the entire league, Berr still managed to score 14 goals and collect 15 assists in 30 games for the Blades.

At 6-foot-5 and tipping the scales at 215 pounds, Judd Warren will bolster the Port Colborne blue-line by providing a "strong, mean presence."

"He's a 20-year-old who wants to win," Kelly said. Given the Golden Horseshoe is top heavy with contenders, with only 12 points separating first from 12th place, and a battle for playoff seeding between the Port Erie Meteors and Soney Creek Warriors, the Pirates anticipated that few, if any, deadline moves would be made on Thursday.

"No one is in a position to help either, because it's so very close this year," Kelly said.

Port Colborne visits the Niagara Falls Canucks Friday night in a battle for second in the points race. The game gets underway at 7:30.

While the 24-10-0-2 Pirates and 24-12-0-2 Canucks both trail the 28-6-0-3 Falcons by nine points, Port Colborne has two games in hand and has the higher winning percentage, .694 to .658.

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JOE CSEH inPort NEWS

Welland Junior Canadians forward Josh Gervais, right, is pressured by Port Colborne Pirates defender Bryan Komarski in junior B hockey Sunday night at Welland Arena.



■ **WORKPLACE INJURY:** Worker sustained only a broken ankle, bruised shoulder

# Labour Ministry probing ship fall

DAVE JOHNSON  
Tribune Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — A 54-year-old man who fell 9.9 metres from a scaffold to the steel deck inside the hold of a laker suffered only a bruised shoulder and broken ankle, a Ministry of Labour spokesman said last week.

The fall happened Tuesday, Jan. 8 at about 1:30 p.m. when the worker, who has not been identified, fell from scaffolding inside the hold of the Algoma Central Corp. vessel *John B. Aird*.

Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services lowered members of its technical rescue team into the hold of the ship, docked in the Welland Canal south of the Mellanby Ave. Bridge, Bridge 19A, to check on and remove the man.

He was brought on deck

and assessed by Niagara EMS paramedics before being transported across the canal to the fire hall to a waiting ORANGE air ambulance. He was then flown to Hamilton hospital for treatment.

Ministry of Labour spokesman Matt Blajer said the worker is employed by Skyway Canada Ltd. and was in the process of installing a scaffold inside the ship's hold.

According to its website, Skyway Canada Ltd. "is one of the country's leading providers of scaffold and shoring solutions."

Blajer said the worker was the lead hand for a two-man crew on the ship at the time of the incident.

"An (Ministry) Inspector was dispatched ... and we wanted a number of things from the company," he said.

Some of what the ministry

requires from Skyway Canada include drawings for the scaffold system, pay stubs, worker orientation and training records, and proof of fall protection training.

Under fall protection, Blajer said that could include ensuring workers are tied off or that guardrails are installed on the scaffolding. Height also factors into the equation, he said, adding certain requirements are needed for anything over two metres high.

While ship accidents would normally fall under federal jurisdiction, Blajer said Skyway Canada falls under provincial jurisdiction and the ministry will continue to investigate.

"We have up to a year to investigate this," said Blajer, who wouldn't speculate on whether charges would be laid.

Meanwhile, work will



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

A 54-year-old worker who fell 9.9 metres from a scaffold to the steel deck inside the hold of the John B. Aird is lowered from the Algoma Central Corp. vessel on Tuesday.

cease on part of the ship.

"We issued a stop work order ... they can't use the scaffolding until we get the instructions for it. We also issued a stop work order on the scaffolding," he said.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca

## AGCO

Alcohol and Gaming  
Commission of Ontario



## Notice of Liquor Licence Application

The following establishment has applied to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario for a liquor licence under the *Liquor Licence Act*:

### Application for a Sales Licence

**PORT COLBORNE BOCCO CENTRE**  
(To be known as: **PORT COLBORNE BOCCO CLUB**)  
555 ELIZABETH STREET, SPORT COMPLEX  
PORT COLBORNE (indoor and outdoor area)

Any resident of the municipality may make a written submission as to whether the issuance of the licence is in the public interest having regard to the needs and wishes of the residents. Submissions must be received no later than **February 9, 2013**. Please include your name, address and telephone number. If a petition is submitted to the Commission, please identify the designated contact person. **Note:** The AGCO gives the applicant copies of any objections. Anonymous objections are not considered.

The personal information gathered is collected under the authority of the *Liquor Licence Act*. The principal purpose of the collection is to assess eligibility for the issuance of a liquor sales licence. Copies of all objections are given to the applicant. The information may also be disclosed pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Manager, Licensing and Registration, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario at the address, telephone numbers or e-mail address listed below.

**Submissions to be sent to:** Licensing and Registration, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, 30 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M2N 0A4.  
Tel: 416-326-8700 OR Toll-free in Ontario: 1-800-522-2876.  
Fax: 416-326-5555. E-mail: [licensing@agco.on.ca](mailto:licensing@agco.on.ca)

**Pour des renseignements en français concernant cette annonce, veuillez écrire à :** Direction de l'inscription et de la délivrance des permis, Commission des alcools et des jeux de l'Ontario, 30 rue Sheppard Est, bureau 200, Toronto, ON M2N 0A4.  
Tél. : 416-326-8700 ou 1-800-522-2876 (interurbains sans frais en Ontario). Téléc. : 416-326-5555.  
Courriel : [licensing@agco.on.ca](mailto:licensing@agco.on.ca)

■ **PLANNING:** Two-year project aimed at generating business, jobs

# Region might waive development charges

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI  
QMI Agency Niagara

**THOROLD** — Niagara regional council might break open the piggy bank to give industries two years free from development fees. Council's planning committee agreed Wednesday, Jan. 9 to put together a bylaw eliminating industrial development charges for two years. The region normally pulls in about \$100,000 a year from those charges, but industries argued scratching the cost could lead to more revenue as new money-paying businesses move in.

"We believe this sends a very positive message to the investment community, to industries, to manufacturers both inside and outside the region," said Roy Timms, director of the Niagara

Industrial Association.

"You are telling Niagara's existing industries that (councillors) understand their plight and are encouraging them to expand their businesses in Niagara."

Councillors unanimously backed the move, despite some discussion over how they would make up for the lost money. They eventually agreed to pay for it out of reserves this year before working it into the 2014 budget.

The move comes after new development charges took effect in September, more than doubling the amount per square foot industries are charged for development.

St. Catharines Coun. Andy Petrowski predicted big dividends from waiving the charges.



"We believe this sends a very positive message to the investment community, to industries, to manufacturers both inside and outside the region."

Roy Timms, NIA manager

"We are supposed to be a pro-job council," he said.

"The investment is minimal. The taxpayer is going to get back the investment in 10 times over."

That's not a realistic expectation, said St. Catharines Mayor Brian

McMullan.

He said two years probably isn't enough to make it work because development takes awhile, and he said it would likely not create new jobs that were not away from here.

"It's flawed. It's better than nothing, I guess," he said.

McMullan said development charges are just one of the factors businesses consider when coming to Niagara.

Welland Coun. George Marshall said the region needs to single out a way to pay for the break.

"Like everyone else in here, I want the result to be good. But I want to do it in a fiscally responsible way," he said.

jeff.bolichowski@sunmedia.ca





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■ HMCS ATHABASKAN: Recently underwent work in Port Weller

## Change your relationship with food

**PORT COLBORNE** — Bridges Community Health Centre has many new and returning health and wellness programs available free of charge this winter for all residents of Port Colborne and Wainfleet.

All groups will be held in the community room at 177 King St.,

Port Colborne.

Craving Change is a how-to program focused on changing your relationship with food. You will learn to understand why you eat the way you do, how to comfort yourself without food, and how to change your thinking so

you can change your eating. An information session will be held on Jan. 28, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The full six-week program will start in February.

For a full listing of all available programs and workshops, visit [www.bridgeschc.ca](http://www.bridgeschc.ca).

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JULIE JOCSAK QMI Agency Niagara

The HMCS Athabaskan, shown tied up at the Seaway Marine drydocks last April.

## Damaged navy ship limps back to Halifax

DON FRASER  
QMI Agency Niagara

**ST. CATHARINES** — A navy ship for which repairs in St. Catharines cost \$5 million more than expected is returning to Halifax after being damaged in an incident last week.

On Friday, Jan. 3, the *HMCS Athabaskan* sustained a damaged hull after a line parted while it was being towed near Sydney, N.S.

Seaway Marine and Industrial in Port Weller was awarded a \$21.7 million federal contract to refit that Iroquois-class navy warship.

The 2012 project included underwater work and comprehensive maintenance and repairs on ship systems, such as fire-fighting and electrical systems.

While the job was expected to be done in November, extra work pumped the bill up to \$26.7 million and delayed its departure to Dec. 15.

Seaway Marine director of operations Charlie Payne said this fall, the Navy decided to have the *Athabaskan* towed to Halifax and have its engines recommissioned there. He said the post-repair process involves engine start-ups and tests, and can take a week or two.

The damage happened off Cape

Breton in the final leg of the return to Halifax. Over the weekend, some minor repairs were done in Sydney to the 130-metre ship.

Navy spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Bruno Tremblay said the damage is not connected to the St. Catharines refit.

"There was a good operation to ensure the tug took back control of the ship. Nicely done by our experts," said Tremblay.

"Our focus is to bring the ship safely to Halifax, so the engineer can do a full-up assessment and determine what the damage is (and what caused it)."

The Halifax arrival should take two to three days in good weather. Full repairs will be done there.

As for the additional work the *Athabaskan* required in its refit, Payne said the base contract consists of opening up and examining spaces and equipment.

"When you do that examination ... you find out what repairs are required," he said.

"And that causes normal (cost) growth."

He said the repairs exceeded what they would normally be because of the condition of the 40-year-old vessel.

[don.fraser@sunmedia.ca](mailto:don.fraser@sunmedia.ca)  
Twitter @don\_standard

■ **HEALTH CARE:** Obstetrics and pediatrics must move to St. Catharines: Smith

# Yellow shirt support encouraging, according to NHS supervisor

ALLAN BENNER  
InPortNews Staff

WELLAND — Niagara Health System supervisor Kevin Smith says recent unexpected support of his recommendations for south Niagara hospitals is encouraging.

The Yellow Shirt Brigade spent years fighting against changes being planned for south Niagara hospitals. But now, the group of mostly Fort Erie residents — known for their bright yellow shirts with the word 'No' written on them — are supporting the bulk of recommendations for south Niagara's hospitals as put forward by Smith to Ontario's health minister. The brigade is circulating a petition in support of his recommendations, as well as the construction of a new south Niagara hospital in Niagara Falls.

"Obviously, the yellow shirt group had a lot of concerns. We tried to spend a fair bit of time listening to those. Some of our work also included public education around what kind of high quality safe environ-

ments, and how much work you have to do at something to be really good at it," Smith said in an interview. "For me the encouragement has really been seeing a majority of people say, 'We're ready to move on.' We think that this is the best of the avail-



MIKE DIBATTISTA  
QMI Agency Niagara

Kevin Smith, Niagara Health System supervisor.

able plans that we can move towards. It is gratifying to see that happening."

Smith said he sus-

pects that the Yellow Shirt Brigade's support has been a response to the petition developed by the City of Welland.

One element of both peti-

tions Smith disagrees with — allowing obstetrics and pediatrics programs to continue running in existing hospital sites until a new hospital is built. Retaining

those departments in several hospitals, he said, will lead to difficulties in attracting medical specialists in years to come.

Preliminary work [allan.benner@sunmedia.ca](mailto:allan.benner@sunmedia.ca)

towards consolidating those programs in the new St. Catharines hospital is underway, he added.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Niagara Region Economic Development division is recruiting interested business owners and professionals to serve on the newly created **Economic Development Advisory Panel**. The panel will provide local perspective, guidance and expert strategic advice in the operation of the new economic development function. Panel advisors should have previous advisory experience and bring a region-wide vision to create a balanced focus on improving Niagara's economy.

The advisory panel will consist of the following:

- Three seats for Niagara business owners
- Two seats for Regional council representatives
- One seat each for the following:
  - Chamber of commerce representative
  - Finance sector representative
  - Post-secondary sector representative
  - Senior Regional staff representative
  - Industry association representative
  - Real estate representative
  - Incubation representative
  - Trade union representative
  - Local area municipal representative - CAO
  - Local area municipal representative - economic development officer

The panel is soliciting interest from people with skill sets in the following areas:

- Commercial/industrial development
- Entrepreneurship or business start-up
- Manufacturing
- Media/public relations
- Government relations and advocacy
- Investment and venture capital
- Transportation and logistics
- Branding and web development
- Media
- Performance measurement
- International business affairs
- Private/public partnerships
- Transition and change management
- Labour force development
- Competitive marketing and sales experience

Meetings will be held quarterly for approximately two hours. Appointment term will be two years.

The expression of interest application form, self-assessment tool and the terms of reference providing details on seat structure are available on our website at [www.niagararegion.ca](http://www.niagararegion.ca). Applications may be completed online, downloaded and mailed or dropped off in person.

To apply directly, forward the completed application, self-assessment and CV to:  
Office of the Regional Clerk  
Niagara Region  
2201 St. David's Rd. W.  
PO Box 1042  
Thorold, ON, L2V 4T7

Applications may also be emailed to:  
[janet.pilon@niagararegion.ca](mailto:janet.pilon@niagararegion.ca)

Applications must be received no later than Jan. 18, 2013. All expressions of interest will be considered. An interview process may be conducted.

For more information, contact  
Susan Cudahy, Manager, Major Projects  
905-685-4225 ext. 3798 or  
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VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo  
Two people were sent to hospital, including the driver of this vehicle, following a two-car crash in Wainfleet Friday morning.

## ■ WAINFLEET COLLISION: Careless driving charge laid

# Crash sends two people to hospital

VICTORIA GRAY  
InPortNews Staff

WAINFLEET — A woman from Hamilton faces charges after a collision in Wainfleet sent two drivers to hospital on the morning of Friday, Jan. 11.

Niagara Regional Police closed Concession Rd. 1 for about two hours after they responded to a two-vehicle crash at the intersection at

Wills Rd. just past 9 a.m. NRP media officer Const. Rich Gadreau said a female driver in her late 50s, whose name has not been released, was charged with careless driving. Gadreau said she allegedly failed to wait until it was safe to proceed northbound on Wills Rd. before going through a two-way stop sign.

A male driver heading westbound on Concession

Rd. 1 couldn't stop in time and T-boned the car driven by the female driver.

There were no passengers in either car.

The female driver was extricated from her black Pontiac sedan by Port Colborne firefighters. An air ambulance was on standby as a precaution, but wasn't used.

The driver was taken to Hamilton hospital with injuries not considered to be life-

threatening.

The male driver of the silver Buick sedan was also taken to hospital with minor injuries including to police on scene.

The collision also took out a stop sign on the northeast corner of Wills Rd., but public works employees replaced the sign before police reopened the road.

victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca  
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# HEALTH CARE: Wainfleet will look into bay options after all

# Change of heart: ambulance storage need

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPortNEWS Staff

WAINFLEET — Ald. Betty Konek may have been visited by one of the ghosts of Christmas over the holidays and had a change of heart regarding a council decision last year.

"I had a chance to reflect ... regarding the decision ... to buy for (Niagara) EMS," said Konek.

Last December, township council turned down a request to keep up a bay where a Niagara EMS community service paramedic unit SUV is stored in the township. The unit started

working out of the township in December and is a 12-hour a day, seven-day-a-week response unit. It was initiated to cut down response times in Wainfleet.

The SUV that is used to carry the paramedic and the equipment needed to respond to calls had been stored in one of the bays of public works yard.

The SUV is stored in a building in compliance with post-disaster classification under the Ontario Building Code. A post-disaster building means a building that is essential to the provision of services in the event of a disaster, and includes fire,

rescue and police stations, and storage facilities for vehicles or boats used for fire, rescue and police purposes.

The cost to upgrade the Wainfleet bay was \$61,410 and the \$53,000 a new ambulance would have been stored in one of the bays of public works yard.

Konek said after Jan. 15, the ambulance will be stored in either Welland or Port Colborne ambulance bases. "We'll lose the paramedics for two hours a day," said the alderman, adding she spoke to a paramedic about the change and the potential time lost due to driving back and forth. She said council looked



at the matter from a dollars and cents perspective and it may have been a "little scary" as to where the money came from for the work.

"But having thought about it, we deserve to have the extra two hours ... we don't have equal access to health care."

She suggested council approve the bay work, but at a limit of \$50,000 and ask Niagara Region for funding if possible.

Ald. Ted Hessels said if council went back to the contractor, the price could be higher for the work.

He also wondered if heaping up the bay would

take space away from public works.

"I'd like to see a little more in-depth report," he said.

Mayor April Jeffs was hoping council would approve the report when it came up in December.

While the decision will be delayed a bit more, Jeffs is happy to see the issue was brought back up at council this week.

He said whether the SUV is stored in the public works building or not, the township will find space for it.

Public works staff have a few ideas, she said, as to what can be done if one of the bays inside the works building doesn't work.

"We'll come up with something," she said.

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■ **GREEN ENERGY:** Wainfleet initiatives lose township's support

# Aldermen cast clouds on solar projects

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPortNEWS Staff

WAINFLEET — Township council has dimmed the chances of two Wainfleet residents getting approval for solar projects.

Aldermen rejected appeals of support at its meeting Tuesday, Jan. 8.

Farmer Keith Veenhof and Kirk Zavitz of Zavor Trucking each sought letters from council so they could get points in their bids to Ontario Power Authority's microFIT program.

At council's last meeting in 2012, Raymond Luciano of Sentinel Solar, representing Zavitz, said municipal support allows a competitive edge in the application process and gives applicants a better chance at landing projects. Veenhof told aldermen the same thing when he first appeared before them last year.

Zavitz was proposing to install ground-mounted solar panels behind his trucking business on Wellandport Rd., while Veenhof had proposed roof-mounted panels on his newly-built chicken barn. Both said the panels would help offset business costs.

A decision on supporting both men was deferred until the Tuesday night meeting.

Mayor April Jeffs brought up the deferred motion and said since the province has approved 200 megawatts worth of projects, why shouldn't the township benefit from it.

"These men are taxpayers and business owners... in another life, if we weren't on council, maybe we'd be asking for the same thing," she said.

Subsidies provided by the province to solar power projects, she added, shouldn't be used as an excuse by council to not support the requests.

"The subsidies are going to happen regardless," said the mayor.

Jeffs didn't see any issues surrounding either request and said there's been no public outcry against solar panels like there has been with wind turbines.

For Ald. David Wyatt, the issue

revolved around potential hazards to firefighters and property with materials used in the solar panels.

"Should anything happen, it could contaminate the land," Wyatt also had concerns over what happens with the panels when decommissioned.

Luciano told council his company has plans in place to deal with the panels in terms of decommissioning them at the end of their life spans or replacing any damaged panels. He said nothing would be left behind and the panels would be recycled or disposed of in an environmentally safe way.

Ald. Richard Dykstra was still confused as to why the two men needed council support when other solar projects have gone up in Wainfleet with no support sought.

"I know it's a point system... whether they get put to the top of the list doesn't mean they'll get approval."

Dykstra did agree with Jeffs and said the projects are going to happen across Ontario and wondered whether Wainfleet should be a part of it or not.

Ald. Ted Hussels struggled with the request, but said since he doesn't support subsidies, he'd be contradicting himself if he supported the requests.

Ald. Betty Konec said she doesn't approve of subsidies either, but also said with council not in favour of the Green Energy Act council shouldn't support the requests.

"I know you can't compare solar to wind, but solar panels are still part of the Green Energy Act."

She also felt if supporting the two requests had a possible impact on the lawsuit the township is currently facing over its bylaw on wind turbine setbacks, then for that reason, too, she could not support them.

After hearing from aldermen, the mayor put forward a motion to support the two requests, but could not get anyone to second it.

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